

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /084 W
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R 101919Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5768
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3076

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, JM, UG, COMMONWEALTH
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY CONDEMNS IDI AMIN

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY HAS REPORTEDLY USED THE OCCASION OF AN ADDRESS TO THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY TO CONDEMN UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS DATED LONDON, JUNE 9, MANLEY SAID THAT JUST AS THE THIRD WORLD IS UNITED IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA, SO IT MUST ALSO DENOUNCE TYRANNY "WHETHER OF THE TRIBAL, MILITARY OR FASCIST TYPE WHEN FOUND IN OUR OWN RANKS." ALTHOUGH NOT READING AMIN, MANLEY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT REPORTS OF MURDERS AND ATROCITIES IN UGANDA HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED. "THE EVIDENCE IS INCONTROVERTIBLE. IT IS CLEAR THAT GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AMOUNTING TO GENOCIDE ARE BEING INFLICTED ON A HELPLESS PEOPLE," THE PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED AS SAYING. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. COMMENT: MANLEY'S REPORTED ATTACK ON AMIN BRINGS THE PRIME MINISTER A LONG WAY FROM LAST JANUARY WHEN HIS GOVERNMENT, IN THE PERSON OF INFORMATION MINISTER OF STATE ARNOLD BERTRAM, PROMPTED THE BANNING OF THE FILM VICTORY AT ENTEBBE (SEE KINGSTON 0261 AND 0223). THE BANNING OF THE FILM WAS TOUCHED OFF BY A TELEGRAM FROM THE PAN AFRICAN SECRETARIAT IN JAMAICA WHICH

DENOUNCED THE FILM AS A "SCURRILOUS ATTACK ON THE INTEGRITY OF ALL AFRICANS AND AFRICAN DESCENDANTS." WE

CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT MANLEY WAS RELUCTANT TO CONDEMN AMIN UNTIL HE HAD BEEN FULLY PERSUADED OF THE TRAGIC STATE OF AFFAIRS IN UGANDA. THE PRIME MINISTER IS, OF COURSE, SENSITIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, AS HE STRESSED IN A CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER ON MAY 30 DURING WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AMIN AS AN "ABOMINATION." IN FACT, WE FIND THE PRIME MINISTER INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE TO THE NEED TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEEM HIS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, WHICH CONFERRED EXTRAORDINARY POWERS OF SEARCH, SEIZURE AND ARREST ON THE GOVERNMENT, AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THIS ATTITUDE. DORRANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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